

S. RES. 517

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were age 65 or older, approximately ⅓ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017, there were more than 51,600,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States, and those individuals account for 15.8 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn age 65 each day;

Whereas, in 2016, more than 9,228,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were age 65 or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2018 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas more than 5,600,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of those individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2018 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of the older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 518—RE-AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR INCREASED MEDIA DIVERSITY, RECOGNIZING MAY 2018 AS “NATIONAL MEDIA DIVERSITY MONTH”, AND ENCOURAGING APPRECIATION, AWARENESS, AND SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT, DIVERSE, AND LOCAL MEDIA ENTITIES

Mr. HELLER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 518

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in the laws of free speech in the United States and underpins the virtues on which the United States has established the Constitution of the United States and the tenets of citizenship, which are, as presented in the Preamble to the Constitution, “We the people of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”;

Whereas an independent, diverse, and local media that provides exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement by all citizens of the United States;

Whereas varying media entities play a significant role in how constituents are exposed to news and discussions that impact the ability of constituents—

(1) to learn about and debate local, State, and national issues central to the stability and security of the United States; and

(2) to effectively monitor their representatives;

Whereas Congress recognizes the central role of mass communication and encourages source, content, and audience diversity on the shared telecommunications and media platforms of the United States;

Whereas encouraging diversity is important to the survival of small independent and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets;

Whereas, 50 years after the Kerner Commission issued its media diversity recommendations, challenges remain with underrepresentation in minority and rural populations in the media and participation in ownership and control of media decision-making, despite those populations comprising over 40 percent of the population of the United States; and

Whereas small independent and diverse media outlets positively contribute to the sense of community in the United States and the goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge, such as by increasing voting levels, participation in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to diversity as a core tenet of the “public interest standard” in media policy;

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common-ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity; and

(3) establishes May 2018 as “National Media Diversity Month”, during which efforts are encouraged to promote media diversity appreciation and support.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2255. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2256. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2257. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2258. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2259. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2260. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2261. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2262. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2263. Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, line 4, insert “and” after the semicolon.

On page 8, strike line 7 through line 20.

Beginning on page 127, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 174, line 16.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: